

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19 were pending in the application. By this paper, claims 1, 11, and 18 have been amended and claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19 remain pending.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are hereby respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Amendment to the Specification

The applicant has amended the specification to more clearly describe the configuration of the tool accepting region shown, for example, in Figs. 2 and 3. The specification has been amended to note that the four sides 56a-56d include two pairs of parallel sides forming a square, four-sided recess wherein the sides are interconnected at the rounded corners 66. No new matter has been entered. All of the subject matter added to the specification is shown in Figs. 2 and 3 as well as a number of the other figures and can easily be gleaned from the specification as originally filed. These changes to the specification are merely to clarify the specific tool accepting region construction as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Strong, U.S. Patent 1,763,486 (Strong). Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19 have also been rejected as anticipated by Gausmann et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,790,348 (Gausmann). Claims 1-7, 10-14, and 17-19 have been rejected as anticipated by Kryger, U.S. Patent No. 5,787,921 (Kryger). These anticipation rejections are believed to be overcome in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites a valve seat ring having a square four-sided cylinder shaped tool accepting region that has two pairs of parallel flat sides forming a square recess with rounded corners interconnecting adjacent ones of the flat sides. Independent claim 11 as amended recites a valve with a seat that has a square four-sided cylinder shaped tool accepting region that is part of the flow passage and has two pairs of parallel flat sides and rounded corners between adjacent ones of the flat sides. Method claim 18 as amended recites choosing an appropriate valve seat that has a square four-sided cylinder shaped tool accepting region with two pairs of parallel flat sides forming a square recess with rounded corners between adjacent ones of the flat sides. Claim 18 further recites selecting a tool socket wrench with a standard four-sided tool head socket extension with two pairs of flat

parallel sides that fit within the tool accepting region of the seat. Claims 1, 11, and 18, and their respective dependent claims, are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references.

To illustrate, Strong at Fig. 2 and column 2, lines 82-86, discloses a cylindrical valve passage through the seat member 12, the passage having four lugs 14 spaced apart around the cylindrical passage. The lugs are curved and spaced apart to form recesses 15 between the lugs that are adapted to receive a "suitable square *shank* wrench" for applying and removing the seat. Thus, Strong does not disclose a four-sided *square* cylinder tool accepting region in the passage of the seat member and does not disclose two pairs of parallel flat sides forming a square recess with rounded corners interconnecting adjacent flat sides. Also, Strong fails to disclose such a square four-sided tool accepting region shaped to receive a standard socket tool head extension. Instead, Strong discloses an entirely different construction shown in Fig. 2 for receiving an unidentified tool *head* configuration. Strong merely discloses that this tool accepting region with lugs 14 and recesses 15 can receive a suitable square shank for wrench reception. A square shape of a shank or shaft of a tool allows for a wrench to turn the shank. However, Strong does not identify the Shape of the tool head that would fit the lugs and recesses.

Strong fails to anticipate or render obvious claims 1, 11, and 18. Strong fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of these claims and the corresponding dependent claims. The rejection based on Strong should be withdrawn in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Gausmann discloses a valve insert 80 with a passageway 94. The interior of the passageway 94 has a plurality of wrench flats 96, having a "hexagonal cross-section so that it can receive a standard Allan wrench or the like." This is specifically described at column 4, lines 20-25, and can clearly be seen in Fig. 2 of Gausmann. Thus, Gausmann also fails to disclose or suggest a *square four-sided* tool accepting region with two pairs of parallel flat sides with rounded corners connecting the flat sides as recited in claims 1, 11, and 18. Gausmann requires that a technician select a properly sized six-sided tool in order to insert and move the element 80 from a valve. This is one specific problem addressed by the instant invention as claimed.

Gausmann thus also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 18 and their corresponding dependent claims. As a result, Gausmann also fails to anticipate

or render obvious these claims. The rejection based on Gausmann should be withdrawn in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks.

Kryger, similar to Gausmann, discloses a bushing or insert that carries a valve seat 3. The bushing or insert is provided with "a hexagonal hole 11 allowing an Allan key to be used for dismantling of the bushing. This is specifically disclosed at column 3, lines 27-29 and shown in Fig. 1.

Kryger also fails to disclose or suggest a *square four-sided* tool accepting region with two pairs of parallel flat sides with rounded corners connecting adjacent ones of the flat sides. Kryger fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 18 and their corresponding dependent claims. As a result, Kryger also fails to anticipate or render obvious these claims. The rejection based on Kryger should be withdrawn in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Conclusion

Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19 are in condition for allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the various rejections are hereby respectfully solicited.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to discuss any remaining issues or matters of form that will place this case in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of the undersigned's firm:

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan J. Lempia

Reg. No. 39,746

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

233 S. Wacker Dr.

6300 Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 474-6300

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